




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Challenging Plastics Forum

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Alger—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (10.05 am): The Palaszczuk government's reforms in the waste sector will help grow the resource recovery industry and create jobs. One of the positive outcomes from improved recycling is the number of potential jobs it creates. As has been said many times, for every 10,000 tonnes of waste sent to landfill fewer than three jobs are created but, when that same amount of waste is recycled, more than nine jobs are created. This is the kind of investment that our government cares about.

Last week, I attended the inaugural Challenging Plastics forum, co-hosted by the University of Queensland. Over the past 12 months, the Queensland government has been laying the critical foundations that will help drive significant improvements to waste management and resource recovery in Queensland, including how we reduce plastic pollution. Our draft waste management and resource recovery strategy is currently out for public consultation and is a significant step in reforming how Queensland manages waste.

The draft strategy identifies plastic as a priority action area. We all know that plastic is an extremely useful material. However, plastic in the wrong place can have harmful impacts on our environment and our wildlife. A plastic pollution reduction plan is currently being developed. The aim of the plan is to provide a coordinated approach that prioritises action to reduce the amount of plastic entering the environment. Through the Challenging Plastics initiative, the Queensland government has created a platform for stakeholders to share knowledge and generate investment and market opportunities. Events such as this forum will ensure that the necessary conversations between key parties take place.

I am pleased to report that the conversation facilitated by the forum focused on positive outcomes and opportunities. Over 100 attendees at the Challenging Plastics forum discussed opportunities to attract recycling and remanufacturing to Queensland, the enablers that are needed to help businesses take leadership in developing plastic solutions and opportunities, and the drivers needed to improve collection infrastructure and develop new markets for plastic in Queensland. A second Challenging Plastics forum is proposed for October later this year. As our government invests in reforms in the waste sector, we are investing in a future where there are more jobs and better environmental outcomes for Queensland. That is great news for our state.